



The President's Daily Brief

8 January 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM

Press reports indicate that Mujibur Rahman was released by Bhutto yesterday and arrived in London early this morning. [REDACTED]

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese are raising the pressure on Long Tieng [redacted]

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(Page 1)

As the outlines of his domestic program unfold, Pakistani President Bhutto is beginning to feel counterpressures from entrenched interests. (Page 3)

[redacted] Communist Chinese [redacted]

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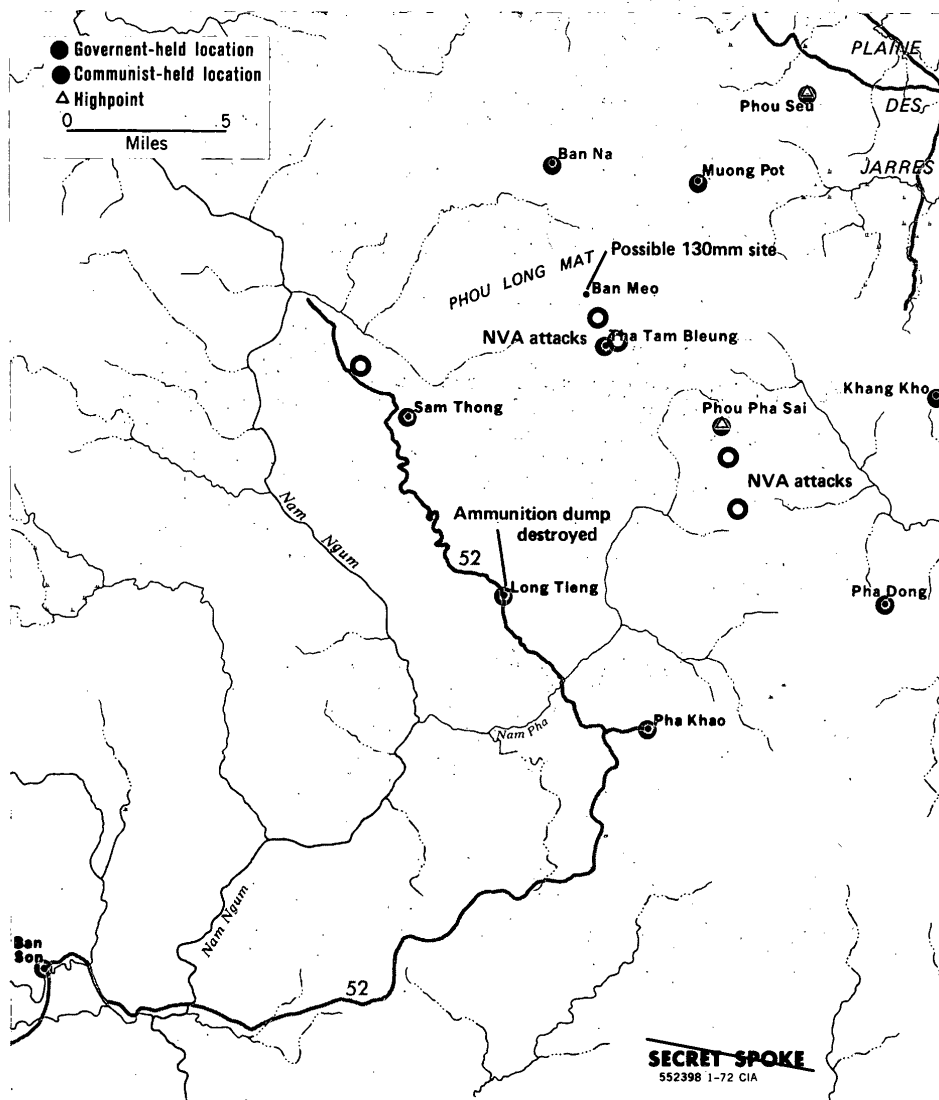
Chile's President Allende seems to have turned to his own advantage an attempt to impeach his interior minister.. (Page 5)

[redacted] Cyprus. (Page 6)

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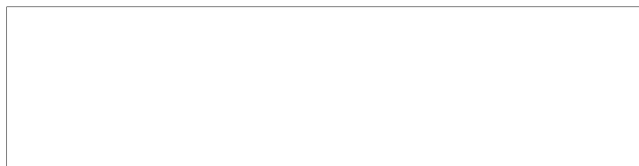
LONG TIENG AREA



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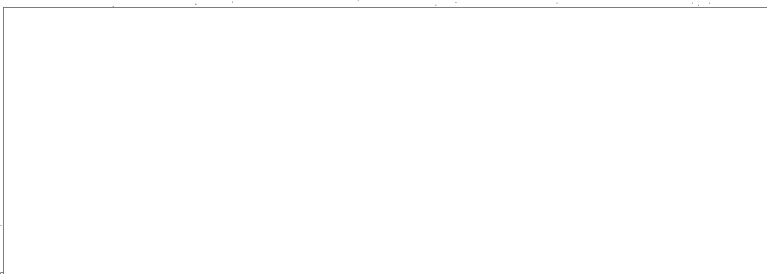
LAOS

Enemy pressure on Long Tieng is increasing. The destruction on Thursday of the remaining ammunition at the base--probably by North Vietnamese sappers--resulted in the closing of the airstrip. Sizable probes and shellings of almost all outlying defensive posts have been reported, but no major positions have changed hands. The Long Tieng valley has been shelled again by heavy artillery, but suffered very little damage. On 6 January an intercepted message suggested that the North Vietnamese may be planning to move their 130-mm. artillery to Ban Meo, less than a mile from irregular defenses at Phou Long Mat and within easy range of Long Tieng.



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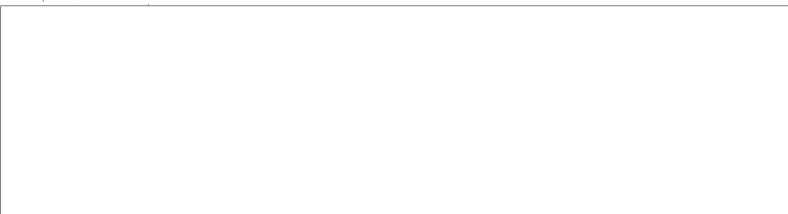
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PAKISTAN

Bhutto is beginning to discover the limits of his power. He is coming under increasing pressure from members of the left wing of his own Pakistan People's Party, who are critical of the limited nature of the government's nationalization policies. A major spokesman for the left, Health Minister Rashid, is also pressing Bhutto to institute reforms designed to improve the lot of farmers and workers. Recent strikes in Karachi and Lahore give testimony to the fact that workers' expectations have been inflated beyond Bhutto's ability to satisfy them.

Although Bhutto cannot afford to alienate the strong left wing of the party, he probably will be cautious about giving in to its demands. Neither the officer corps nor the right wing of the party--which includes large landowners--would be pleased with sweeping economic reforms. Bhutto does not wish to create a split in the party, and it is most likely that he will try to steer a middle course.

Bhutto is also under pressure from the National Awami Party for quick restoration of civil government. As a result of the elections last year, the party is sure of taking control of the provincial government in Baluchistan and hopes to form a coalition with which to capture the Northwest Frontier Province as well. [REDACTED] the National Awami Party ultimately is aiming for autonomy for these provinces, as well as cabinet reforms that would grant them representation in the capital far out of proportion to the number of people they would represent.

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Bhutto has already promised to restore civil rule as quickly as he can, but timing is crucial and he would prefer to see political and economic stabilization measures well under way before taking such a step.

Bhutto's continuing purge of the armed forces is also beginning to irk the officer corps. Initially, the majority applauded the firings [REDACTED]

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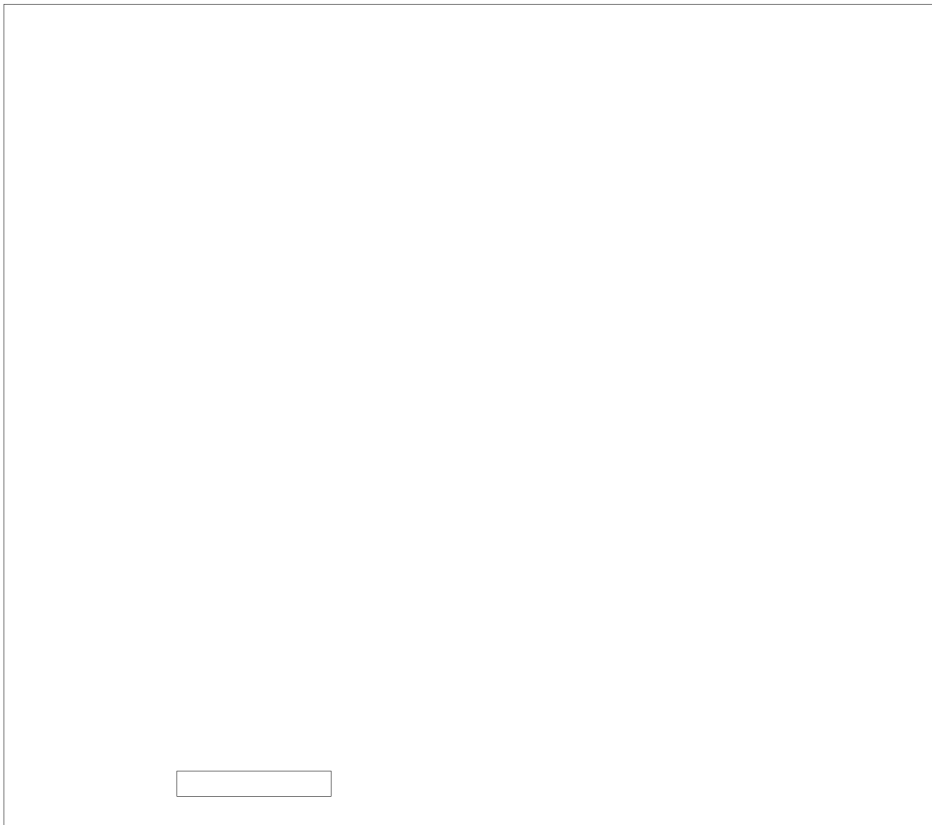
[REDACTED] but [REDACTED], the continued housecleaning in the ranks of senior officers is generating opposition.

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Eventually, however, Bhutto will have to deal with the problem and set a clear policy on retention or retirement of officers.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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CHILE

President Allende has finessed a Senate confirmation of the lower house vote to impeach Interior Minister Toha by transferring Toha to the Ministry of Defense. Defense Minister Rios in turn becomes interior minister. Toha was impeached by the opposition controlled lower house for alleged failure to use the security force impartially against progovernment as well as antigovernment demonstrators and dissidents.

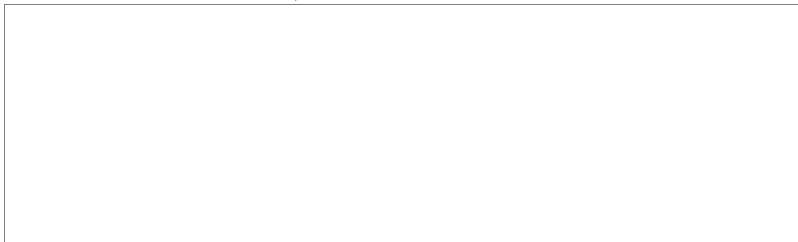
By moving Toha to defense, Allende not only avoids a serious political defeat but puts his key Socialist lieutenant in a job Allende considers increasingly important. He may hope that Toha's demonstrated skill in organizing police and internal security forces in support of the government now will help in dealing with growing evidence of discontent among military officers.

Rios, 70 years old, had presided over the Defense Ministry largely as a figurehead. Long closely associated with Allende, in 1964 he led a leftist faction out of the Radical Party to support Allende's bid for the presidency. With this shift, the undersecretary, a capable young Communist, is likely to exercise more effective power than he did under Toha, but Allende will continue to determine the ministry's main direction.

As interior minister, Rios is first in line of succession to Allende.

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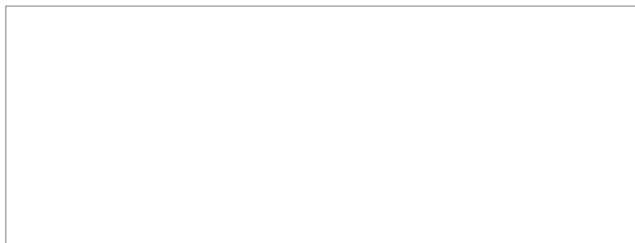
CYPRUS



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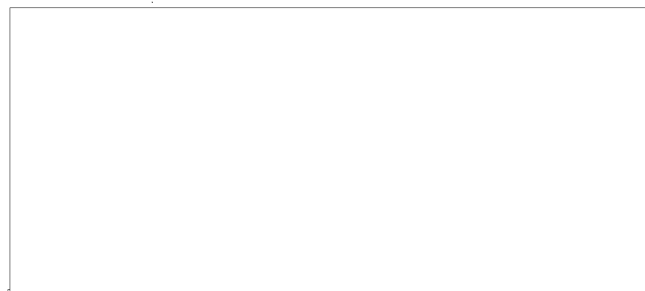
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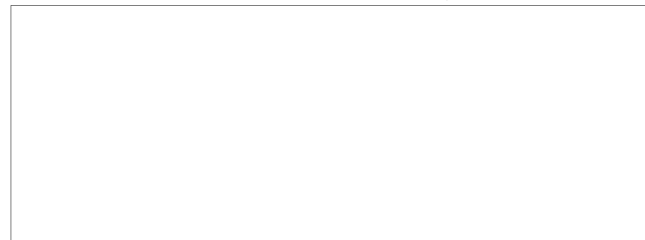
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NOTE

Israel-Lebanon-Syria: Increased fedayeen activity along Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria has led to unofficial Israeli warnings of a possible counterstrike. Most recently, on Thursday Syria-based fedayeen killed and decapitated an Israeli Army engineer, and rockets were fired from Lebanon at an Israeli border town. Lebanese nervousness was shown in a statement Thursday by Prime Minister Salem charging that Israel was preparing to take military action against Lebanon.

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